



[SEC File No. 270-217, OMB Control No. 3235-0241]

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request: Extension: Rule 206(4)-2

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From
Securities and Exchange Commission
Office of FOIA Services
100 F Street, NE
Washington, DC 20549-2736

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”) a request for extension and revision of the previously approved collection of information discussed below.

The title for the collection of information is “Rule 206(4)-2 under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 -- Custody of Funds or Securities of Clients by Investment Advisers.” Rule 206(4)-2 (17 CFR 275.206(4)-2) under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80b-1 et seq.) governs the custody of funds or securities of clients by Commission-registered investment advisers. Rule 206(4)-2 requires each registered investment adviser that has custody of client funds or securities to maintain those client funds or securities with a broker-dealer, bank or other “qualified custodian.”¹ The rule requires the adviser to promptly notify clients as to the place and manner of custody, after opening an account for the client and following any changes.² If an adviser sends account statements to its clients, it must insert a legend in the notice and in subsequent account statements sent to those clients urging them to compare the account statements from the custodian with those from the adviser.³ The adviser also must have a reasonable basis, after due inquiry, for believing that the qualified custodian maintaining client

¹ Rule 206(4)-2(a)(1).

² Rule 206(4)-2(a)(2).

³ Rule 206(4)-2(a)(2).

funds and securities sends account statements directly to the advisory clients at least quarterly, identifying the amount of funds and of each security in the account at the end of the period and setting forth all transactions in the account during that period.⁴ The client funds and securities of which an adviser has custody must undergo an annual surprise examination by an independent public accountant to verify client assets pursuant to a written agreement with the accountant that specifies certain duties.⁵ Unless client assets are maintained by an independent custodian (*i.e.*, a custodian that is not the adviser itself or a related person), the adviser also is required to obtain or receive a written report of the internal controls relating to the custody of those assets from an independent public accountant that is registered with and subject to regular inspection by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (“PCAOB”).⁶

The rule exempts advisers from the rule with respect to clients that are registered investment companies. Advisers to limited partnerships, limited liability companies and other pooled investment vehicles are excepted from the account statement delivery and deemed to comply with the annual surprise examination requirement if the limited partnerships, limited liability companies or pooled investment vehicles are subject to annual audit by an independent public accountant registered with, and subject to regular inspection by the PCAOB, and the audited financial statements are distributed to investors in the pools.⁷ The rule also provides an exception to the surprise examination requirement for advisers that have custody solely because they have authority to deduct advisory fees from client accounts,⁸ and advisers that have custody solely because a related person holds the adviser’s client assets (or has any authority to obtain possession of them) and the related person is operationally independent of the adviser.⁹

⁴ Rule 206(4)-2(a)(3).

⁵ Rule 206(4)-2(a)(4).

⁶ Rule 206(4)-2(a)(6).

⁷ Rule 206(4)-2(b)(4).

⁸ Rule 206(4)-2(b)(3).

⁹ Rule 206(4)-2(b)(6).

Advisory clients use this information to confirm proper handling of their accounts. The Commission's staff uses the information obtained through these collections in its enforcement, regulatory and examination programs. Without the information collected under the rule, the Commission would be less efficient and effective in its programs and clients would not have information valuable for monitoring an adviser's handling of their accounts.

The respondents to this information collection are investment advisers registered with the Commission and have custody of clients' funds or securities. We estimate that 8,057 advisers would be subject to the information collection burden under rule 206(4)-2. The number of responses under rule 206(4)-2 will vary considerably depending on the number of clients for which an adviser has custody of funds or securities, and the number of investors in pooled investment vehicles that the adviser manages. It is estimated that the average number of responses annually for each respondent would be 6,830, and an average time of 0.00524 hour per response. The annual aggregate burden for all respondents to the requirements of rule 206(4)-2 is estimated to be 288,202 hours.

This collection of information is found at 17 CFR 275.206(4)-2 and is mandatory. Responses to the collection of information are not kept confidential. Commission-registered investment advisers are required to maintain and preserve certain information required under rule 206(4)-2 for five years. The long-term retention of these records is necessary for the Commission's examination program to ascertain compliance with the Investment Advisers Act.

The estimated average burden hours are made solely for the purposes of Paperwork Reduction Act and are not derived from a comprehensive or even representative survey or study of the cost of Commission rules and forms. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number.

The public may view background documentation for this information collection at the following website: www.reginfo.gov. Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review - Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice by **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**

to (i) MBX.OMB.OIRA.SEC_desk_officer@omb.eop.gov and (ii) David Bottom, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o John Pezzullo , 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549, or by sending an email to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov.

Date: August 1, 2022.

J. Matthew DeLesDernier,
Deputy Secretary.

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